HOME SAFETY REVIEW

DECEMBER 1946 • JANUARY 1947

Season's Greetings

and a

SAFE ONE

A MERRY CHRISTMAS everybody! We wish there were some way to strip from this greeting all sense of the conventional. We wish that we could instill into type the full warmth of tone, the sincerity in our eyes, and the smile of good will that we have on our lips as we pass it on to you.

We wish you a Christmas full of hope for the future, free from worry, and free from pain. Think now of how inappropriate are thoughts of pain, suffering, and possibly death at this festive season. Put safety into your planning so that these discordant experiences cannot mar the joy of *your* Christmas.

Thomas Fansler

THE COVER GIRL

She has a right to wear a smile
And proudly hold her chin up.
After all, she sets a style—
For she's Miss Safety
Pin-Up!

★

Little Jeane Berry, who was chosen Miss Safety Pin-Up of 1946 at the 34th National Safety Congress, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Berry of Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Berry is director of traffic and transportation for the Council.

HOME Safety REVIEW

DECEMBER, 1946-JANUARY, 1947

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BUILDING OUT HAZARDS

By D. Kenneth Sargent
Professor of Architecture
Syracuse University

(Condensed from a talk by Mr. Sargent at the 34th National Safety Congress. Mr. Sargent illustrated the construction details by the use of a series of slides.)

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME can be dealt a decisive blow in the present great home building boom. However, the present trend of hasty construction by builders and technicians inexperienced in construction methods, design and details will defeat this objective.

The standards demanded in the past by financiers and government agencies have now been relaxed because of the various shortages of materials. Standards have also been reduced in a seemingly futile attempt to stimulate the industry to speed the construction of housing.

With this background, we are launching one of the greatest programs of housing this country has ever seen. Judging from some examples I have examined, I believe we are embarking on a program of substandard, unsafe housing, which in many cases will be the slums of tomorrow.

This is the problem that confronts those of us who desire to give hazard-free homes to the general public. Such conditions demand that we today publicize, more than ever, proper details of construction. We must try to educate the buying public as to how a house should be designed and constructed. We must try to teach these new, unapprenticed mechanics how properly to construct safe housing. We must reconvert the financier to demand that these homes be constructed with proper and safe details, in order that the investment be protected for the future.

The details of safe design are well known. You have probably heard every one many times, yet perhaps have disregarded them in your own home. Since accidents so frequently result from the poor design of the *simple* features of the house, it is my opinion that we should emphasize the ordinary and commonplace of good construction. However, I do not wish to imply that a house can be constructed "accident-proof." Always the personal element of housekeeping and care will be a contributing cause. I *do* believe that design can many times eliminate the *chance* of accident, even though the occupant is careless.

Of all the accident types, falls are the most frequent cause of injury and death. Stairs of all types seem to be the greatest contributing cause.

Stair treads should be of equal widths and risers of equal height. (A small variation in any one may cause a person to trip.) The slope should be easy—not over 36°. A long run of stairs should be broken by a landing. The curved stair of yesterday should be eliminated. A stair tread or nosing of different color from the floor is desirable. The surface of the stair tread should be even, but one which is not slippery.

All stairs should be protected by rails 31" high above the tread, measured at the riser. Headroom should be adequate, with a minimum of 6'6".

The first riser should not be less than the width of a door from the nearest opening. Where children or somnambulists are occupants of the house, provision should be made for gates at the head of the stair.

Adequate lighting of all stairs is essential.

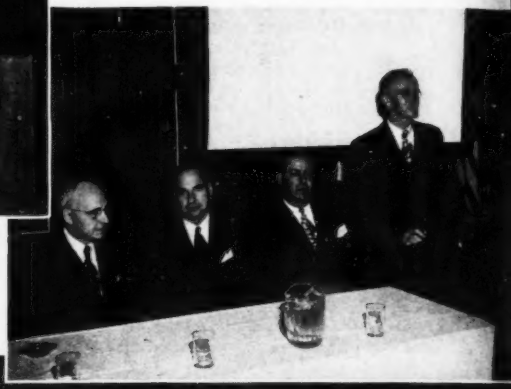
Bathtubs are a common setting of falls and scalds, or a combination of both. A grab bar so located as to be usable to the person standing in the shower is ideal. Don't forget a thermostatic mixing valve with non-scalding feature.

Children and window washers seem

(Continued on page 15)

Ned H. Dearborn, president, National Safety Council, officially opens the 34th National Safety Congress & Exposition with an address at the Annual Council meeting.

Professor W. H. Scheick, University Illinois, presides at a session on the s construction of homes. The speakers, left to right: W. D. Sorgatz; D. Kenneth Sargent; and Dennis J. Organ.



Congress news

And to tell about home safety in England — R. F. E. Howard-Hodges, deputy secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, London.

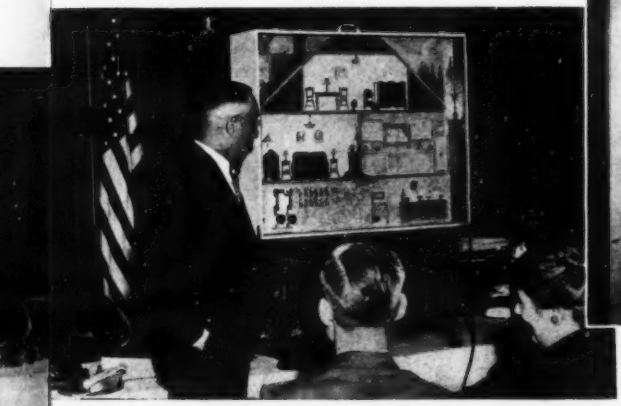
Miss Katherine Olmstead, New York State Department of Health, pulls one safe home-making device after another from her bag of "safety tricks" at the Safe Practices Demonstration. Dr. Donald B. Armstrong (extreme left) presided at this session.

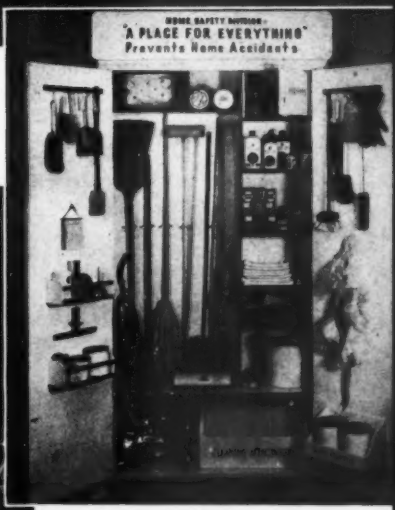
To tell how community home safety programs can work are, left to right: Raymond W. Seidel; Mrs. George P. Parker; Dr. Donald Dukelow; DeWitt Smith, presiding.

Dr. Frederic Bonnet, American Viscose Corporation, horrifies the ladies by using a pair of nylons in his demonstration of the flammability of various fabrics.

... in pictures—

Fire Chief, Joseph Lump, Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation, demonstrates the hazards of unsafe or makeshift wiring with this completely wired home model.





At the Exposition, the home division "housekeeping closet" attracted the attention of many of the 10,000 exhibition visitors.

Why there is a Santa Claus

or

Never Underestimate The Power of a Woman

A Short Story by **Martha Shaeffer**

THE GINGHAM DOG AND THE CALICO CAT chased each other round and round the platform of the clock as the hour chimed. The fire, which sputtered and crackled and sang a merry song, cast a warm glow over the Claus' workshop. Dancer and Blitzen nuzzled their noses over the stall door, clinking their silver bells against the polished surface. It was 3 o'clock — Christmas Eve afternoon.

Santa Claus sat in an expansive chair putting the last spring in a mechanical merry-go-round. He touched a lever and the little carousel began to revolve to a tinkling tune. He leaned back in his chair and laughed and laughed until his stomach was a series of ripples.

The door to the kitchen opened, letting in the spicy aroma of plum pudding. Pink-faced Mrs. Claus stuck in her white head.

"Oh, so you finished the merry-go-round? Won't Jimmy Scott be happy!"

"I hope so. It's finished except for cleaning off this spot of paint. Hand me the gasoline, Dear."

"Gasoline! Nick! You know we don't keep gasoline in this house. I do believe you'd sit there in front of the fire and blow us all the way to the South Pole. Think what that would do to your usual greeting; you'd have to say 'Merry Chris'mus to *you all* and to *you all* a good night."

Mrs. Claus bustled over to a cabinet, opened a special compartment with a brass key shaped like one of the Seven Dwarfs and took down a bottle. She read the label carefully before she handed it to her husband.

"See there, it says 'nonflammable, nonexplosive' and be sure you lock it up when you're through. One of the elves might mistake it for soda pop and take a drink of it."

She returned to her pudding making, and St. Nicholas heaved a sigh of relief. He got up from his chair to stand before the fire. He removed the fire screen and backed up to the blaze. He checked his list of last minute chores which had to be done before he hitched up the reindeer: Put Underwriters' Laboratories seals on all electrical toys; recheck infant toys for any loose or removable parts; smooth any rough edges on all toys.

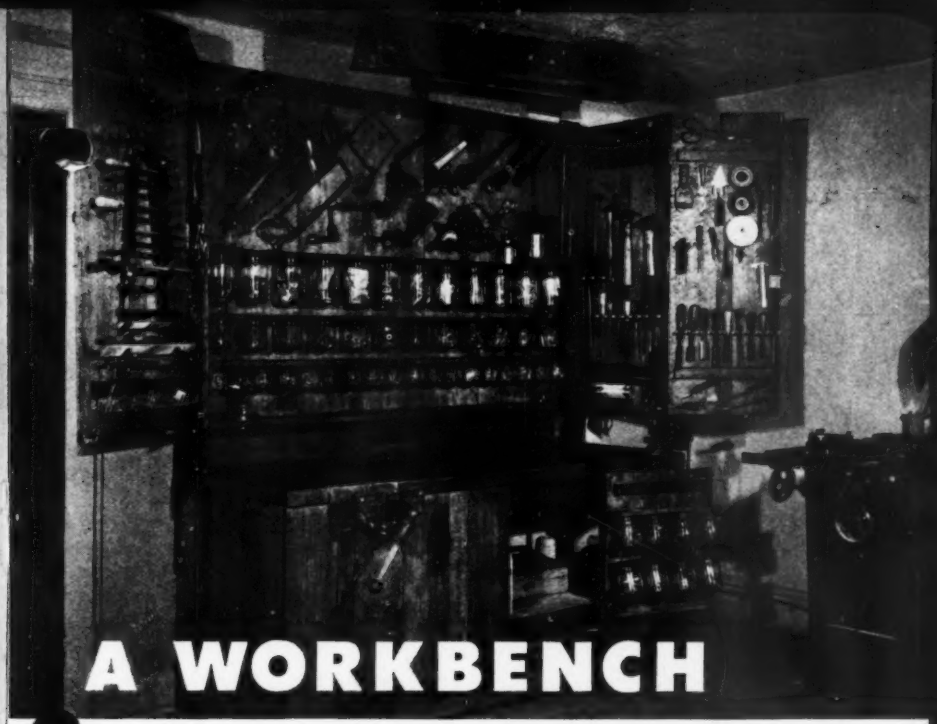
Suddenly he roared with pain.

"Christine! Christine Kringle—come quick. I'm on fire!"

Mrs. Claus ran in carrying a bucket of pink lemonade which she threw on the seat of his breeches. Then she stood there tapping her foot on the ABC-block floor.

"Now *really*, Nick, I can't leave you alone a moment. You know better than to take that fire screen down, don't you?"

(Continued on page 14)



A WORKBENCH THAT WORKS

The workbench illustrated and described in the following article was designed and made by Mr. Sydney Oshrin, Long Island, New York. Mr. Oshrin's hobby is woodworking and he finds that this organized arrangement of tools adds immeasurably to the convenience and speed of working.

★

Whether your home workshop is in the basement, the garage, or a "spare room" you want it to be a convenient, pleasant place to pursue your carpentry hobby or to make household repairs.

If you are planning a new workshop you'll of course consider such things as good lighting and ventilations, adequate floor space for large projects, and efficient arrangement of large equipment.

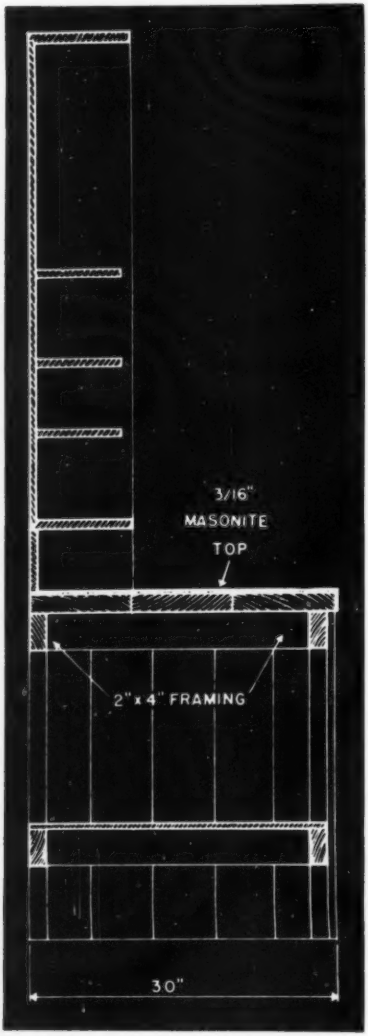
Equally important is a plan for storing all the many tools and supplies necessary to even the small shop.

A compact workbench such as Mr. Oshrin has designed is a logical solution of this problem. The photograph above shows the completely equipped workbench as it appears when the doors are open.

Before you start to build your own workbench, study the plans and photographs of Mr. Oshrin's workbench.

Obtain all the ideas and suggestions you can from other sources. Then combine the ideas you like with your own ideas to develop a workbench that will suit your needs.

You can, of course start with a minimum number of tools. But be certain to allow space for expansion so that others may be added gradually as your skill increases.



Vertical section through one end of cabinet.

Mr. Oshrin's workbench is built of white pine planking. (The frame consists of 2 x 4's bolted together. The top is made of 2 x 10 planks on which is glued 3/16 inch masonite. The rest of the bench is finished with ⅞ inch pine.) The bench is finished with a walnut stain.

"A place for every tool" is the idea behind this cabinet workshop. The doors are so hinged that they fold out, putting all frequently-used tools within easy reach.

The right door holds screwdrivers, chisels, hammers, etc. On the left door, a slanting notched rack holds files. Below the file rack, drills and bits are stored vertically in openings drilled in a trough-shaped block of wood screwed to the door. This door also has places for pliers and wrenches.

The space at the back of the cabinet is for saws, the electric drill, and large items of irregular shape.

If other members of your family use your workshop, you may find it helpful to paint or draw black outlines of the large tools on the surface where they are hung to assure their always being returned to their proper places.

Rows of wide-mouthed glass jars (covers of jars are fastened to the underside of the shelves) keep nails, screws, bolts, nuts, hinges, and other small items clearly visible and easy to locate. Notice that the lower shelves slant slightly making it easier to grasp the jars.

The contents of the jars may be arranged according to their type and size, or the jars may be labeled. Mr. Oshrin uses a system of starting with small-sized items at the right side and graduating to the largest sizes at the left.

The shelves at the bottom of the

cabinet contain odds and ends of less frequently used equipment and supplies.

There is a wood vise, clamped on the lower left side of the cabinet. Mr. Oshrin suggests that the back of the vise be made flush with the front of the table so that when a long board is inserted in it the edge of the table will give extra leverage and hold the board in place.

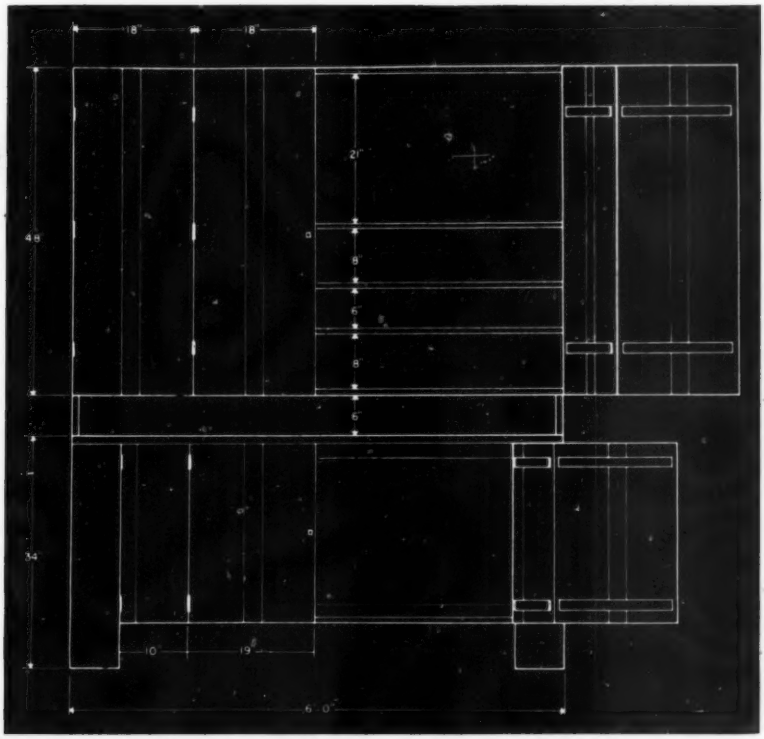
Mr. Oshrin has his electric power tools lined up along the right wall. They can be easily wheeled near the workbench or wherever they are needed. Heavy duty wiring and a duplex outlet installed in the bench insures efficient use of electric tools. An independent line running from the meter to the workbench prevents a possible short circuit from affecting the house lights.

A hooded light fastened to the wall above the bench swings out, providing adequate, glare-free lighting both for bench work and when working at the power machines.

To supply a bit of entertainment while working, Mr. Oshrin has hinged a small radio to the inside of the bottom shelf. It turns off automatically when the door is closed.

A view of the workbench as it appears when closed is shown on the following page.

Front elevation of workbench.



Drawings of workbench: copyright 1946, The Condé Nast Publications Inc. Courtesy, June House and Garden.

In this photograph you can see how neat and orderly your workshop will look when the doors are closed. Another advantage is that with the doors closed tools and supplies are protected from dust and dirt.

An important safety feature is the fact that a workbench such as this one can be securely locked so that sharp tools are inaccessible to inquisitive children.

KEEP YOUR WORKSHOP CLEAN

An excellent habit to develop is that of putting away each tool as you finish using it. Tools will always be ready and waiting for the next using and you will be spared the delays and annoyance of hunting for misplaced items.

Another good rule is to clean up your shop each time you finish working. A broom and dustpan conveniently stored will make this an easy task.

A well-planned and orderly workshop will not only make your hobby more fun, but you will find that the quality of your workmanship will improve.

USE TOOLS SAFELY

The convenient and orderly arrangement of your workshop does much to make working with tools safer. However, you should learn to use each tool correctly and safely. You'll find helpful suggestions for using various household tools in forthcoming issues of *Home Safety Review*. The article on the opposite page deals with the use of pliers. Previous issues covered the care and use of the hammer and the screwdriver.

a pair of PLIERS

By E. M. Gearhart, Jr.
Consultant, Home Division
National Safety Council

The third of a series of articles about the care and use of household tools.

A PAIR OF PLIERS is probably the most versatile tool found in the average home. Pliers are a kind of pincers or forceps with jaws especially designed for cutting or bending wire, small rods, and flat strips, or for picking up and holding a variety of objects. They consist of two pieces of metal shaped and pivoted so that pressure upon the handle end will cause the jaws to grip an object placed between them.

Pliers of one type are so made that the jaws can be adjusted to grip either small or large objects. Another common type has jaws so designed that they provide a powerful shearing action along one edge, while the tips are flattened for gripping or holding materials.

In purchasing a pair of pliers, the kind with adjustable jaws are recommended for average home use. Ask your dealer to recommend a pair which is made of high quality material, as quality tools last longer and are safer to use.

Industrial plants, and similar establishments, maintain a large stock of special tools for the use of employees. They insist that pliers be used only for the specific purposes for which they were made.

It is unreasonable to expect that any home would have on hand at all times an instrument specifically designed for every minor operation. It is therefore logical for the average family to adapt the pliers to innumerable uses, such as:

Removing screw eyes from wood surfaces, pulling out rubber jar rings before removing the lid, removing screw caps from bottles, holding nails in position for driving, loosening small nuts or bolts, straightening bent nails, cutting rope, removing staples, straightening bent cooking utensils, removing objects from inaccessible places, and similar uses.

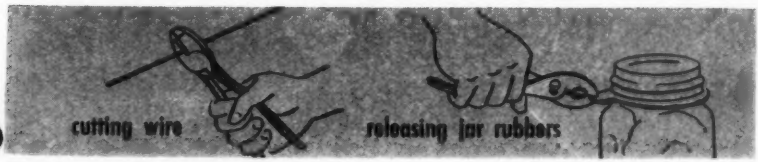
Pliers should never be used as a substitute for a hammer, or as a prybar or as a chisel.

In addition, there are certain precautions which should be observed in using a pair of pliers. They should be kept clean and free from grease at all times, and the pivot should be kept lightly oiled. The teeth should be kept free from accumulations of paint, particles of wood or metal, and other foreign material.

If used carelessly, or allowed to slip, the teeth may gouge metal surfaces and raise sharp edges, which may be the cause of later injuries.

The user should never exert a twisting force so great that there would be the possibility of the pliers slipping and causing injury.

The important factor in preventing accidents, is to use your head as well as the pliers.



HOME SAFETY *for the* State Safety Council

By Mrs. George P. Parker
Director, Home Division
Utah Safety Council

(Condensed from Mrs. Parker's speech at the National Safety Congress)

A CERTAIN MAN applied for the position of caretaker of an estate. When asked for his qualifications he answered, "I can sleep when the wind blows." "Sleep when the wind blows," exclaimed the owner. "Yes," said the man, "I can sleep when the wind blows." His earnestness was so impressive that he was given the position.

When the wind came, the neighbors were up scrambling to close garage doors, fasten screens and shutters, and anchor chimneys. But everything on the estate was securely closed and in perfect condition. The man had learned the safe way of living. He had the foresight to prepare for any emergency. He could sleep with a feeling of security when the wind blew.

One of the greatest destructive forces of our time—accidents—stalks the land as a modern ogre, snatching unsuspecting victims, breaking bones and crushing out lives.

Accidents in and around the home resulted in 33,500 deaths, in 1945. There were 5,000,000 non-fatal injuries, including 130,000 permanently impaired. It is evident that there must be a greater effort put forth in the interest of safety. It is imperative that there be a leadership to direct, unify and extend the safety program. It seems logical that the state safety council should assume this responsibility.

Much depends on the fundamental organization of the state safety council. If all the civic, industrial, cultural, and religious groups and human welfare agencies are invited to become a part of the council, closer and fuller collaboration can be obtained.

The Utah Safety Council was organized on this basis. The executive officers and directors of divisions were chosen from participating units. Following this same plan, the Home Division Committee members were chosen from organizations vitally interested in the home.

The first project of a home safety division is the formulation of general over-all plans that will answer the *what, how, when* and *where* of home safety activities.

WHAT is the objective? A simple statement of objectives will clarify and direct the group's thinking.

As accidents are caused by unsafe actions or by unsafe conditions, efforts must be directed toward both of these causes. There must be a program of education which will reach into every home and promote safety consciousness in every individual.

To accomplish these objectives, the general committee may be divided into sub-committees.

The number of sub-committees will depend upon the needs of the state and its communities. The Utah Home Division has the following sub-committees.

1. PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS—to get safety information into metropolitan and country newspapers, magazines, and news sheets of participating groups throughout the state.

2. RADIO—to provide interviews, spots, dramatizations, and talks by specialists.

3. PROGRAM AND BULLETIN—to issue a quarterly bulletin contain-

ing timely information for clubs, church, and other groups.

4. HOME BUILDING—(a) to promote the planning and construction of safe houses, and (b) to secure the adoption of uniform codes and a more careful inspection of installations and equipment.

5. PROMOTION AND HOME SERVICE—to procure materials for programs, exhibits, films and demonstrations; to promote accident prevention classes, contests, and other projects; to gather accident facts.

An outline of proposed activities is very helpful. The following are some of the projects of our home safety committee:

1. A "Home Safety Week" each year. The "Home Safety Week," beginning with the governor's proclamation, was very successful in our state. A full front page, carrying pictures of children in hazardous positions, came out Sunday in one of the leading state newspapers. All state papers ran stories of the safety campaign. Radio stations gave spot announcements, interviews, and dramatizations.

2. Carry on a continuous program of safety education. We have done this by means of magazine articles, pictorial write-ups, radio dramatizations, window displays, etc.

3. Give emphasis to seasonal hazards. In the *spring,* we stress house cleaning, gardening, etc.; in the *summer,* outdoor activities, home canning, picnics, Fourth of July; in the *fall,* back-to-school problems, fires, Halloween; and in the *winter,* ice, snow, Christmas hazards.

4. Cooperate with other groups working for the same safety goals.

5. Encourage accident prevention courses given by qualified instructors.

6. Provide a Home Service Bureau where speakers, literature, films and exhibits may be obtained.

I have not mentioned all of the projects that a state safety council may conduct in preventing home accidents, but I trust that some of the suggestions will be workable in all states, or may bring to mind other procedures that will.

In order to secure safety in the homes of our nation, the rudiments of safe living must be stressed again and again: eternal vigilance is the price of safety. Security can not be attained by the work of one individual or one group. It can only be accomplished by uniting all our forces for the safety of our homes and our nation.

Outstanding achievement in the field of home safety was recognized in the award presented to Mrs. George P. Parker, director of the Home Division of the Utah State Safety Council, by Thomas Fansler, Home Safety Director of the National Safety Council.

Time to Remember

IT IS TIME TO REMEMBER that more deaths from home accidents occur during the months of December and January than during any other two months of the year. Holiday activities are responsible for some of this increase.

A dry, untreated Christmas tree, for example, can flash into a mass of flame in a matter of seconds after its resinous needles have been touched with a glowing cigarette or have come in contact with a spark from a defective Christmas tree light socket. Untreated cotton used at the base of the tree is equally hazardous.

Both the cotton and the tree can be treated in such a way that they will be resistant to fire. In the case of cotton, it is easier to purchase cotton which has already been treated and labeled as fire resistant, but, since the treating of Christmas trees has not yet become common practice, it is the responsibility of each family to treat its own tree.*

This can be done by purchasing a fresh green tree, sawing off a short length of the base, and standing the cut end in a solution made up of four pounds of ammonium sulfate dissolved in three quarts of water. A sixteen pound tree should absorb all of this solution. Larger or smaller trees require proportionately more or less solution.

Candles have been the cause of many serious holiday fires. Their use should be discouraged. Electric lights designed to simulate candles can be used in most instances where a candle has symbolic significance.

*For complete instructions, write for the U. S. Department of Agriculture's leaflet "Fireproofing Christmas Trees." Price 5 cents.

WHY THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

(Continued from page 6)

"Well, yes—I—er—well—er . . ."

"Er—nothing! All year long I have to remind you about safety: Don't leave toys scattered on the floor! Don't climb up to the high shelves on the babies' high chairs. Don't put too many electric toymakers on the same outlet. Don't leave matches within reach of the elves! Don't, don't, don't!"

Santa Claus stood on one foot, then the other.

"Nick, had you ever stopped to think what would happen to us if we lost Kringle Kastle due to a home accident? You *know* what the housing situation is these days!"

"Darn it all, Christine, I hadn't thought of that. What would we do?"

"Well, one thing's for sure, we couldn't move in with Mr. and Mrs. Easter Rabbit. They are already overcrowded and no other family in the world would have us with all these elves and gnomes running around. The thing for you to do is to be as careful in our own home as you insist parents are in theirs."

"I think you have something, Christine. Just to prove it, I'll fix that broken basement step tomorrow."

"Tomorrow, fiddlesticks. You'll fix it right now while I check your list of THINGS TO DO. Do you realize I have to carry all the sugar plums up from that cellar, and I don't want to break my neck."

Santa sheepishly handed over the list and went to the basement. He was halfway down when Mrs. Santa called to him once more.

"Nick, Dear, you will drive carefully tonight, won't you? I worry about you so now that there is so much traffic in the sky."

There was a noncommittal grunt from the cellar, and the mechanical figure of Tiny Tim looked up at Mrs. Claus with a smile on his cherubic face.

"Merry Christmas and God bless us everyone," he said.

BUILDING OUT HAZARDS

(Continued from page 3)

the principal victims of falls from windows. Windows which open should be so designed as to facilitate washing from the inside. The storm sash is set in such a window from the interior of the building. Children are not likely to fall from this type of window, for the screens fit into the openings from the inside and are held in place by draw bolts.

Next for frequency of cause of accidental death in the home is fire. Defective chimneys are a major source of fire. The careless construction methods which cause these fires are almost unbelievable. Fewer fires would result if all owners insisted on simple details such as these:

Chimneys supported only on foundations on the ground.

No framing closer than 2″ to the chimney.

Firestops placed at the floor openings.

All beams supported by other means than the chimney masonry.

Smoke pipe not less than 18″ from the chimney.

Tight-fitting cleanout doors.

The chimney top carried 2′ above the ridge (or any ridge within a radius of 10 feet).

The fireplace is a frequent cause of fire. A fireplace should always be lined either with fire brick or a hollow metal lining. A screen hung from the fireplace opening eliminates the hazard of flying sparks. The hearth is important. A concrete slab, supported by noncombustible material, at least 18″ wide will insure safety.

For the house with basement heater, the heating apparatus should be located in a separate, fire-resistive room. A rough, plastered ceiling and a metal-covered, self-closing door will inhibit the spread of fire.

Electric shocks are common causes of fatal accidents. Bathroom shocks may be especially dangerous, for not only are we in contact with conductors from the ground, such as faucets and drains, but frequently we handle fixtures with wet hands, which of course improves the electrical connection. We should keep electric switch controls and outlets out of reach of the plumbing fixtures.

Many times convenience outlets have been the cause of painful and serious burns to infant investigators. New homes should be designed with convenience outlets from 36″ to 42″ above the floor—with sufficient number to avoid the necessity of many appliances attached to one outlet.

Another major cause of home accidents should be mentioned—the hazard of poisoning, such as carbon monoxide, gas and refrigerants.

Death from carbon monoxide is not limited to automobiles in garages. It is also the fatal gas from your furnace that enters the rooms of your home when the door or smoke pipe is blown open by an explosion of coal gas. Approved stokers seldom cause such accidents.

Safe burning of gas in stoves, water heaters, furnaces and refrigerators is assured when the apparatus is approved by safety checking organizations. Home owners should realize that appliances do wear out. They become dangerous when misused or allowed to go uninspected.

Falls, conflagrations, electric shocks, and carbon monoxide poisonings constitute the most common causes of home accidents. The architect and builder can do much to cut down such accidents.

Eliminate stairs wherever possible, use fire resistant materials, provide electric outlets at strategic points, safeguard with an adequate stoker and control the heating unit. It is this group of commonplace errors of design, construction, and detail that we should attempt to publicize now and continuously if we would eliminate many of the contributing causes of home accidents.

References:

When You Build or Remodel—National Safety Council, Chicago
Design for Safe Living—New York State Department of Health, Albany
How to Accident-Proof Your Home To-Be—Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Boston
Hidden Hazards—Insurance Company of North America Companies, Philadelphia

are you going to build or remodel?

IT'S YOUR HOME—PLAN IT *SAFELY!*

let these planning aids help you . . .

Sound Slide Film

"IT'S YOUR HOME"

Do you want to build or remodel your house so that it will have approved safety features? This film covers such points as site, entrance and exit, interior planning, storage, etc. Excellent photography. Interesting story treatment. Discussion outline included. Runs 20 minutes. Purchase price: $7.50.

Illustrated Booklet

"WHEN YOU BUILD OR REMODEL"

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